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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of )

Gary R. Braslawsky et al )

Application No. 09/238,741 )

Filed: January 28, 1999 )

Group Art Unit: 1642

Examiner: L. Helms

For: PRODUCTION OF TETRAVALENT ANTIBODIES

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

These remarks are further to the interview held with Examiner Helms, Chris Dayton, Patent Counsel of IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation, the assigned of this application and the undersigned.

During the interview, the undersigned clarified the novel and non-obvious feature of the subject invention which relates to a recombinant DNA means for generating antibody dimer, i.e., the association of two intact antibody molecules by engineering a cysteine codon in the antibody molecule so as to allow for dimerization of two molecules while retaining the antigen-binding properties of the antibody molecules. It was noted that these antibodies may possess different specificity and that these dimer molecules are useful especially for therapeutic use as they promote apoptosis of target cells that express an antigen bound by an antibody contained therein, e.g., B cells.

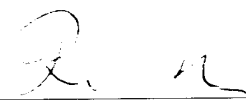
As discussed at the interview, the prior art of record instead relates to association of half antibody molecules to produce a double intact antibody molecule.

As discussed at the interview, the undersigned argued that the prior art of record does not teach the subject invention and that this argument would be persuasive of patentability contingent on a supplemental

search to ensure that no molecule prior art was overlooked. As it is believed that the most relevant prior art is of record, it is anticipated that, upon entry of the amendment not entered during prosecution of the parent application that this case should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

However, if any issues remain outstanding the Examiner is respectfully request to contact the undersigned so that prosecution may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

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